

How the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is Making a Difference in Virginia's 5th District: a News Round-Up

EMPLOYMENT

Stimulus funds send 450 Southside youth to work for summer (June 25, 2009)

"Thanks to federal stimulus funding, hundreds of area youth, age 14 to 24, will have summer jobs. And it's not costing the employers a dime. Kim Adkins, executive director of the West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board's Summer Youth Employment Program, said the agency received almost \$1.5 million in stimulus funding that will cover the cost to train, manage and pay the salaries of about **250 youth** in **Danville** and **Pittsylvania County**, and **another 200** in the **Martinsville, Henry County** and Patrick County area."

([Danville Register & Bee](#))

Danville company awarded \$813,000 for N.C. 700 work (December 2, 2009)

"Federal stimulus funds will help a **Danville** company. The North Carolina Department of Transportation awarded W-L Construction & Paving Inc. of Danville an \$813,505 project contract for resurfacing and shoulder reconstruction of 8.7 miles of N.C. 700 in Rockingham County, according to a department news release. The work can begin as early as March 1, 2010, and should be finished by May 29." ([Danville Register & Bee](#))

Fluvanna to Receive Stimulus Funds for New Fire Station (September 25, 2009)

"**Fluvanna County** is getting \$1.4 million in federal stimulus funds to build a new fire station, announced Congressman Tom Perriello's office on Thursday. The new station will replace the current Fork Union volunteer fire company station that's sitting on a flood plain. **More than 100 contractors** in Fluvanna will have work when construction starts on the brand new Fork Union fire station." ([NBC 29](#))

EDUCATION

Gladys Elementary to stay open, in large part to stimulus money (March 16, 2009)

"**Campbell County** Schools officials said they will not close Gladys Elementary School and likely will not lay off personnel, due in large part to the federal stimulus plan." ([Lynchburg News & Advance](#))

Stimulus fills in gaps for sports, bus routes (February 26, 2009)

"**Halifax County** Superintendent of Schools Paul Stapleton said Monday the \$2.5 million stimulus money that the county is expected to receive should close gaps in the schools' upcoming budget. The cash infusion prompted the School Board to shelve plans to eliminate middle school sports and participation in the Regional Governor's School." ([The News & Record](#))

Perriello: Greene Schools to get \$940,000 (March 6, 2009)

"Perriello made quite the impression on some Pre-K students at the **Greene County** Primary School. The congressman learned about the school's Pre-K program and he got a peek at why the school system's budget can't afford to get any tighter. According to Perriello, Greene County schools should get \$940,000 from the national stimulus package. That's money that school board members have been lobbying for this month in Washington D.C. 'Our purpose for being there was to ask that schools not be forgotten in that package,' said Michelle Flynn, Greene County School Board Chair." ([NBC 29](#))

PVCC: Stimulus cash prevent layoffs; school plans for ex-visitors center (March 13, 2009)

Piedmont Virginia Community College in **Albemarle County** "will benefit from federal stimulus money to the tune of \$400,000 next fiscal year, money the college's president said should prevent previously anticipated layoffs." ([Charlottesville Daily Progress](#))

Education money slated for Pittsylvania County (March 13, 2009)

"The money will help the **Pittsylvania County** School Board shrink its budget gap from \$6.4 million to \$2.5 million for the 2009-10 school year. The Title I and IDEA funds will enable the school division to free up money to balance the budget and avoid employee layoffs and salary reductions, Superintendent James McDaniel said." ([Danville Register & Bee](#))

Perriello briefs Chamber on federal stimulus package (March 4, 2009)

"The package expands the child tax credit and creates a \$2,500 tuition tax credit. Perriello said that he coauthored the tuition tax credit provision. **Bedford County** Public Schools will get \$3.4 million out of the package's education provisions. Perriello said that it also contains a number of tax breaks and incentives for businesses." ([Bedford Bulletin](#))

ENERGY

Albemarle readies for green grant (November 30, 2009)

"Despite an economic recession that has **Albemarle County** officials wondering how to pay for education without teacher layoffs, the county is expecting an increase in environmental and energy efficiency funding, courtesy of the federal government. Sarah Temple, the county's environmental manager, said the grant would be used to save energy costs and improve the environment... 'It just makes financial sense,' said Bill Letteri, the county's director of facilities development, adding that the county saves a substantial amount of money years down the road because of the reduction in energy costs." ([Charlottesville Daily Progress](#))

Perriello Sees First-Hand Local Weatherization Work (May 4, 2009)

"Fifth District Congressman Tom Perriello came to Rocky Mount on Friday to tell 85-year-old Ruth Tyree that she will have a warmer house and lower heating bills this winter. Perriello talked with the elderly Rocky Mount woman as workers with STEP pumped insulation into her attic and walls, and took other steps to weatherize the home. Tyree's home on Mary Coger

Lane in Rocky Mount is among about 80 houses in Franklin and Patrick counties that will be weatherized with \$621,780 in federal funds as a result of the federal stimulus package.” (The Franklin News-Post, article not available online)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nelson medical center scores stimulus money for expansion (December 9, 2009)

“**Nelson County**’s Blue Ridge Medical Center will get \$5 million in federal stimulus money to help treat increasing numbers of low-income and uninsured patients, the White House announced Wednesday. The grant means more medical services, including programs of care for children and the elderly, will be available for low-income and uninsured residents, said Peggy Whitehead, the center’s director. About 9,200 people sought health care last year, and an average of 150 new patients a month continue walk in the door this year.” ([Lynchburg News & Advance](#))

Stimulus funds will go toward pharmacy in Franklin Co. (July 9, 2009)

“The latest beneficiary of federal stimulus money in the region is the Ferrum Community Health Center in **Franklin County**. A \$493,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will provide a new pharmacy for the health center on the Ferrum College campus. The new pharmacy will be five times larger and allow for more storage and retail space. The medication assistance program for uninsured patients will be moved from the clinic to the pharmacy.” ([Roanoke Times](#))

Perriello Announces Over \$377,000 in Recovery Act Grants for Victoria and Boydton Community Health Centers (April 8, 2009)

“At the **Victoria** clinic, the federal funding will be used to hire two new positions in mental health services: an administrator and a licensed clinical social worker, as well as to add part-time hours for one psychiatrist. At the **Boydton** clinic, the federal funding will be used to expand dental services by hiring a dentist and a dental hygienist, and to save an additional job. As the only clinic in the region that serves Medicaid patients, this clinic has seen an increased demand for dental services.” (Kenbridge-Victoria Dispatch, article not available online)

HOUSING

Danville housing getting \$1.2 million in stimulus funds (March 12, 2009)

“The **Danville** Redevelopment and Housing Authority is getting \$1.2 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for improving the city’s public housing projects. The stimulus funds will be used for a long list of capital improvements to the city’s public housing properties... Wasson said public housing units will get new stoves, many cabinets will be replaced, some floors will be redone and water/sewage/drainage issues will be assessed. He also said some landscaping projects will be done, including improving the entrance at Pleasant View Apartments.” ([Danville Register & Bee](#))

Perriello promotes homebuyer credit (July 14, 2009)

"Brent Yowell, a UPS employee and National Guard veteran, had long wanted to become a homeowner, but worried that he would struggle to afford buying a house in the **Charlottesville** region. An \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers, however, convinced Yowell to make an offer on a 1,440-square-foot townhouse in the Old Trail community of Crozet. Yowell, 30, closed on the property at the end of April. The tax credit, he said, gave him enough cash to buy furniture and appliances for his first home." ([Charlottesville Daily Progress](#))

PARKS AND RECREATION

Work begins on Philpott project (November 24, 2009)

"Ground was broken Monday on a sewer project at Philpott Lake, a move that could open the door to the development of a marina there. The sewer project, which will connect the park to the Henry County Public Service Authority's water lines, represents the 'next wave of economic development' in **Henry County**, 5th District U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello said during Monday's ceremony... Proponents of the marina say it would boost tourism in the area." ([Martinsville Bulletin](#))

Stimulus cash helps Appomattox Court House (April 25, 2009)

"Two projects at **Appomattox** Court House National Historical Park will be completed thanks to \$172,000 in federal stimulus money. The money will pay for restoration of the slave quarters log cabin at the historic McLean House as well as improving energy efficiency of a building used to house temporary workers and volunteers, said Reed Johnson, the park's superintendent." ([Lynchburg News & Advance](#))

Stimulus for High Bridge (May 1, 2009)

"**CUMBERLAND**—High Bridge Trail State Park's signature landmark—High Bridge—just got the funding it needs for conversion to safely accommodate those hiking or biking the trail...The stimulus funds will be used 'to reconstruct High Bridge,' according to Perriello, adding protective decking to a bridge which is 2,400 feet in length and 160 feet above the Appomattox River...The congressman said the presence of the bridge 'will take that trail from recreation to a destination location' that will keep tourism dollars coming into the economy." (Farmville Herald, article not available online)

Danville forestry department nets stimulus money (September 18, 2009)

"**Southside** will have two jobs created and 12 retained for tree planting, maintenance, removal and inventory projects, according to a news release from the Virginia Department of Forestry. The department received more than \$1 million of federal stimulus money for projects in Southside and the Shenandoah Valley." ([Danville Register & Bee](#))

Tobacco Heritage Trail nets \$6 million in stimulus funds (April 30, 2009)

"The Tobacco Heritage Trail has landed its largest grant to date — \$6 million in federal stimulus funds to build a 16-mile segment of trail from Lawrenceville to Brodnax, which straddles the

Mecklenburg-Brunswick county line. The award, announced Tuesday by Fifth District Rep. Tom Perriello, provides a welcome boost for the rails-to-trails project, envisioned to run 160 miles through the counties of **Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Halifax, Lunenburg** and **Charlotte**. Sandra Tanner, president of Roanoke River Rails to Trails, Inc. and a member of the Virginia Tourism Corporation, noted that trails project achieves one of the chief goals of the stimulus bill — providing jobs. ‘This trail project is putting people to work during this tough economic time,’ said Tanner. The trail also will have spinoff economic benefits, including building a market for tourism-related businesses in Southside Virginia, Tanner said.” ([The News & Record](#))

PUBLIC SAFETY

Perriello announces Recovery Act funds for law enforcement (March 12, 2009)

***Bedford** and **Franklin** counties are among the 5th District localities that been able to keep policeman on the street and maintain public safety due to the over \$1 million in law enforcement funding made eligible for use in the district through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program.

([Smith Mountain Eagle](#))

Grant likely for sheriff (March 18, 2009)

“The **Nelson County** Sheriff’s Office is expected to receive more than \$10,000 in federal stimulus funds. The monies come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that was signed into law by President Barack Obama last month...Nelson County Sheriff David Brooks said the funds would be used for training, equipment, drug enforcement and helping to start an anti-domestic violence program.” ([Nelson County Times](#))

TRANSPORTATION

Kaine, Perriello: \$29.8M of stimulus to pay for Robertson Bridge project (April 29, 2009)

“The Robertson Bridge project is a go, thanks to \$28.9 million in funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act...[**Danville** Mayor Sherman] Saunders said the new bridge plans include natural gas and water lines that will be used to serve the new industrial mega-park on Berry Hill Road...that would make the mega-park an ‘attractive business location.’ Without federal stimulus money, the Robertson Bridge project would have been put off indefinitely.”

([Danville Register & Bee](#))

Shovel-ready projects in region ready for Washington boost (May 9, 2009)

“**Nelson County** was the biggest winner of transportation dollars among nearby localities, with \$6.3 million for repairs to 17 bridges and culverts. **Charlottesville** and **Albemarle County** received \$6.8 million for repaving on major roads, according to Perriello.” ([Lynchburg News & Advance](#))

Danville, Pittsylvania County to put stimulus to use (May 6, 2009)

“About \$5.5 million in federal stimulus funds will help pay for three bridge projects in **Pittsylvania County**, and an additional \$200,000 will go toward **Danville’s** transit system... [T]he

three projects are for superstructure replacement. The projects will entail raising the bridges about a foot because of clearance issues for large trucks, Jones said. The bridges are functionally obsolete, Jones said.” ([Danville Register & Bee](#))

CTS receives stimulus funds (June 2, 2009)

“Of the \$1.3 million, \$1.18 million will be needed to replace two older Trolleys—each with a lifespan of 10 years—with new, diesel-electric hybrid ones. ‘It’s a great step forward,’ says Arens. ‘We’ll get those two buses fully outfitted with all of the equipment and all the stop upgrades.’ Some of the upgrades include cameras, radios, AVL units and other electronics. According to **Charlottesville** Transit Service, ridership has increased and the company is close to 1.6 million boardings in the city.” ([C-VILLE Weekly](#))

OPINION

A good gamble (February 20, 2009)

“The stimulus bill includes tax cuts and sends billions of dollars to the states and their local governments. The immediate benefit of the stimulus will probably be extended unemployment benefits because that’s money that will be spent quickly. Stimulus money will also help states pay for basic government services such as education, law enforcement, health care, roads and transportation. Local governments in the Dan River Region — and around the country — already have wish lists of infrastructure projects they want funded. Those local wish lists include a bridge, water lines and an industrial park — hardly the stuff of wasteful government spending...The stimulus bill is far from perfect. But that federal stimulus money — if spent wisely — could really help this community for years to come.” ([Danville Register & Bee](#))

A bridge that only the feds could build (September 14, 2009)

“We know local drivers will like the new Robertson Bridge. That’s because the new bridge has been designed to fix today’s problems and handle tomorrow’s growth. After years of reviews by engineers, it represents the most bang for the buck possible... The question is how local people will see it. A few still argue that the new bridge wasn’t needed. But the people stuck in traffic around that bridge every day — and the traffic engineers — know better. Fair people will give Perriello the credit he deserves for working hard for this community, even if they don’t support everything he has done or will do over the next year. The question is how many people who don’t like Perriello and didn’t support the ARRA will still drive on the new Robertson Bridge — and think nothing of it.” ([Danville Register & Bee](#))

A Hand Up in Nelson for Health Care (December 15, 2009)

“Thanks to the federal stimulus package, the county’s Blue Ridge Medical Center will get \$5 million to help treat an increasing number of patients. The grant announced by the White House will mean more medical services, including programs of care for children and the elderly, for county residents...Good health care is important to every community across America. In Nelson County, thanks to the federal economic stimulus program, good health care — especially for low-income and uninsured residents — will become better in the years ahead.” ([Lynchburg News & Advance](#))